



# Upper Mississippi River Comprehensive Plan - Iowa-Cedar Rivers Watershed

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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## Location

Cedar Falls, Cedar Rapids and Iowa City

## State(s)

IA, MN

## Congressional District(s)

IA-1, IA-2, IA-3, IA-4, MN-1

## Status

The study team is currently working to complete in FY2014 a reconnaissance level flood risk management study for the Iowa-Cedar watershed. The Interagency team has completed a scope for development of a comprehensive watershed plan through interagency collaboration and engagement of local interests; initiated development of collaborative watershed models; developed a process for shared-vision planning; and completed multiple stakeholder engagement workshops in the Indian Creek subwatershed.

## Description

The 12,600 square mile Iowa and Cedar Rivers Basin (ICRB), which experienced record flows and elevations during the 2008 flood with catastrophic results, is the first tributary watershed to be studied under the Upper Mississippi River Comprehensive Plan (UMRCP). See UMRCP Fact Sheet for more information. Reducing flood risk requires a variety of actions, both structural and non-structural, that are compatible with achieving a resilient and sustainable watershed. A success watershed plan has upstream/upland interests working with downstream/lowland interests to develop win-win solutions. UMRCP flood risk management efforts are part of a broader effort of integrated water resources management of the ICRB. The objective is to create basin-wide management strategies and plans through public input and collaboration that can be implemented by Federal, state, and local agencies. While efforts under UMRCP are 100% Federally funded, the collaborative process aligns and leverages initiatives of other government (Federal, state, and local) and non-government organizations. Current participants on an ICRB Interagency Team include: US Army Corps of Engineers, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; USDA Farm Services Agency; US Fish & Wildlife Service; IA Departments of Natural Resources, Transportation, and Agricultural and Land Stewardship; IA Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management; Federal Emergency Management Agency; Iowa State University; University of Iowa; US Environmental Protection Agency; US Geological Service; National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration; and US Army Corps of Engineers. Some NGO's are also participating - American Rivers, Earth Economics; and the Nature Conservancy. Products are locally driven and include definitive goals and objectives; watershed plan; action plan;



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process for watershed management through collaboration and partnering; process for public outreach and engagement; and decision support system. Efforts under UMRCP integrate a broader plan and process for sustainable management of water and natural resources of ICRB for multiple purposes, which balances economic, environmental, and social values.

## **Summarized Project Costs**

Federal Cost	\$500,000
Non-Federal Cost	\$0
Total Cost	\$500,000

## **Additional Project Information**

Costs posted in funding table represent Corps contribution under the Comprehensive Plan which is truly developed with contributions from multiple governmental and non-governmental entities that align with the IA-Cedar Interagency Coordination Team. [www.iacedarbasin.org](http://www.iacedarbasin.org).

## **Major Work Item (This Fiscal Year)**

In FY2014 with carry-over funding, the study team is completing the reconnaissance report for the Iowa-Cedar watershed. Additionally, the team has completed under pilots project funding: process for shared-vision planning in the Indian Creek subwatershed, and conducted 5 stakeholder engagement sessions that communicated the impacts of landuse and climate change on social, economic and environmental aspects related to flooding.

## **Major Work Item (Next Fiscal Year)**

With funding in FY2015, if a Federal interest is identified in the reconnaissance report and a cost share sponsor is identified, a feasibility study would be conducted on the Iowa-Cedar watershed which would seek to prepare a flood risk management strategy in order to reduce the flood damages and improve infrastructure reliance.

## **Authority Details**

Section 459 of Water Resources Development Act 1999 (Public Law 106-53)

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